

Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 NIC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 IO-10 /073 W

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R 201655Z FEB 75

FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 514

AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 314

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET PROTESTS ON BERLIN

REFS: A) BONN 2660; B) STATE 36385

1. MISSION PROTOCOL OFFICER USED OCCASION OF PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED LUNCH ENGAGEMENT WITH SOVIET COUNTERPART ROMANOVSKIY FEBRUARY 20 TO RE-EMPHASIZE POINT THAT SOVIETS' OWN INDISCRETIONS AND LEAKS CREATED DIFFICULTIES FOR CONFIDENTIAL HANDLING OF ALLIED-SOVIET COMMUNICATIONS (REFTELS). ROMANOVSKIY DISPUTED THERE HAD BEEN SOVIET LEAKS IN CASE OF EC VOCATIONAL CENTER, CLAIMING THAT BURDAKIN'S JANUARY 24 REMARKS AT GERMAN-SOVIET FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY HAD BEEN PURELY PERSONAL AND THAT COMMENT ATTRIBUTED TO SOVIET DIPLOMAT IN JNAUARY 27 DER SPIEGEL INTERVIEW HAD NO STANDING. ONLY AFTER ALLIES HAD PUBLICIZED DETAILS OF FEBRUARY 6 STATEMENT DID PRAVDA AND RADIO MOSCOW CHIME IN. IN REJOINDER, MISSION PROTOCOL OFFICER SAID THAT AT ISSUE WAS NOT CONFIDENTIAL

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ONLY VOCATIONAL CENTER CASE BUT ALSO GENERAL SOVIET

PRACTICE AS REFLECTED IN OTHER EXCHANGES WITH ALLIES
ON BERLIN MATTERS.

2. MISSION PROTOCOL OFFICER RECEIVED IMPRESSION FROM
ROMANOVSKIY'S SUBSEQUENT COMMENTS THAT SOVIETS WERE
ANXIOUS NOT TO PROLONG CONTROVERSY OVER EC VOCATIONAL
CENTER ANY FURTHER. ROMANOVSKIY ASKED DIRECTLY WHEN
EMBASSY COULD EXPECT TO RECEIVE ALLIED RESPONSE TO
FEBRUARY 6 STATEMENT (MISSION OFFICER REPLIED:
"PROBABLY QUITE SOON."); HE POINTEDLY STRESSED THAT
FEBRUARY 6 COMMUNICATION WAS "STATEMENT" AND NOT
"PROTEST"; AND HE CHARACTERIZED COMMENTARIES ON SUBJECT
THAT HAD RECENTLY APPEARED IN PRAVDA AND ON RADIO MOSCOW
AS IMPLY A RESPONSE TO STORIES THAT HAD BEEN PUBLISHED
IN DIE WELT AND OTHER NEWSPAPERS ON BASIS OF ALLIED
SOURCES. GEORGE

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